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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4022  
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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7644  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0029  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 6002  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 8239  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1323  
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - WORLD FOOD CRISIS

11. LEAD STORIES: There were no papers published on Wednesday morning due to a press holiday. Broadcasters reported on Chinese President Hu Jintao's arrival in Tokyo on Tuesday afternoon. NHK-TV and Kyodo News reported early Wednesday morning that Deputy Secretary of State Negroponte will visit South Korea, Japan, and China starting Wednesday.

12. "U.S. Aggravating Food Crisis" The liberal Mainichi editorialized (5/6): "...Food prices are surging around the world. One of the causes is the increasing production of bioethanol. Planting of wheat and soybeans has been decreasing due to the rising production of corn for bioethanol for car fuel. The consumption of cereals in China, India, and other emerging economies is growing, while Australia has just had a poor crop. On top of these factors, the flood of speculators into the grain markets is accelerating the hike in food prices.... The U.S. is mainly responsible for the two issues of bioethanol and speculation. The U.S. should review its policy of giving preferential treatment to bioethanol producers. The U.S. should immediately move to calm the current turmoil in the financial markets and create an environment in which Japan and other nations can work together to end speculation in the commodities market."

DONOVAN